



# Capitol Report

News & Updates from Your State Capitol

By Arkansas Secretary of State Charlie Daniels

Summer 2007

## Rotunda Sees New Visitor Center Emerging

Renovation and restoration of the State Capitol are ongoing projects this year, with the first-floor rotunda area being converted into a modern visitor services center and restoration of the west façade to begin early next year.



Construction began in late April and has continued through summer to revamp the U.S. Post Office, Capitol Police station, Capitol Gift Shop and Tour Desk on the first floor. The remodeling facilitates ease

of use and restores the continuity of the building's historical design elements.

The visitor services center will include an area in the northwest corner for tourists to gather information about Arkansas and the Capitol through an interactive computer touch screen and educational videos. A new wireless broadband Internet connection allows the public to access e-mails, accommodated by space in the northeast corner for working on laptop computers and watching news.

The Information Technology department has also worked to install wireless Internet access at hotspots throughout the Capitol Building and the adjacent Capitol Hill Building for users with wireless-enabled devices.

## Now Online!

### File Campaign Reports Electronically

A new online contribution and expenditure reporting system made its debut in July, adding a new level of convenience and accessibility for candidates and the public.

The Internet-based program was developed by the Secretary of State's office in conjunction with the Arkansas Ethics Commission and the Information Network of Arkansas. It allows candidates to file an electronic version of their campaign financial disclosure forms, which are required by law.

Currently, the public can search records online by the candidate's name or position

sought. As the system expands, new search criteria will be added, which will produce more targeted results for users.

"I'm excited about this new tool and the capabilities it enables us to add in the future," Secretary of State Charlie Daniels said. "These online reports will be more legible and more searchable, making campaign finance more transparent for the public."

Candidates who would like to participate in this system can contact the Elections Division for further instructions at (501) 682-5070 or (800) 482-1127 or by e-mail at [electionsmail@sos.arkansas.gov](mailto:electionsmail@sos.arkansas.gov).



*This summer the American Legion Auxiliary paid me a great honor by forming "Daniels City" as one of the Girls State townships for the week-long civics camp. It was a very kind gesture in appreciation for welcoming Boys and Girls Staters into my office over the years and for helping coordinate the group's activities at the Capitol. I am delighted by the honor, but I must say the real thanks is in watching students take the reins of government for a day. Not only does it plant the seed of political aspirations in these young leaders, it reminds me what a privilege it is to be entrusted with this position.*

*Working with Boys and Girls State is just one of our continuing efforts to grow young voters. Providing civics curriculum, making classroom presentations and hosting Young Voters Month at the Capitol are important for instilling a sense of civic duty from an early age. But those methods alone aren't enough to reach the tech-savvy generation of today.*

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*At the July meeting of the National Association of Secretaries of State, many of the discussions centered on using new technologies to reach voters, especially those in the 18 to 25 year-old demographic that ranks lowest in voter turnout. One statement in particular resonated with my staff: "If you're thinking of creating a brochure to reach young voters, you're about 20 years too late."*

*My staff knew that in 2004 when we jumped into cyberspace with a website for young voters, [www.wannabeheard.org](http://www.wannabeheard.org). We're now exploring formats that have since boomed – Internet communities like My Space and Facebook, blogs, text messaging and "podcasts" that can be downloaded onto portable media players. Young adults thrive on the control they have with these tools. They now expect to choose each message they see, and that's exactly the idea we want to convey about voting. Casting a ballot is the original interactive media.*

*As we build toward the 2008 election season (which includes Arkansas's new Presidential Primary date on February 5), look for new voter outreach efforts and other election news at our website, [www.sos.arkansas.gov](http://www.sos.arkansas.gov). Or share your ideas with us by e-mailing me at [arsos@sos.arkansas.gov](mailto:arsos@sos.arkansas.gov).*

## Let Us Know!

### Need a Speaker?

The Secretary of State offers specialized programs for students, civic groups, businesses and others. To schedule a speaker for your group, call (501) 683-3702 or e-mail [speaker@sos.arkansas.gov](mailto:speaker@sos.arkansas.gov).

### Need to Update?

If you receive duplicate issues of this newsletter, need to change your address or wish to receive future issues electronically call (501) 683-0057 or e-mail [arsos@sos.arkansas.gov](mailto:arsos@sos.arkansas.gov) with the subject line "subscribeCR."

## New Brochure Highlights Monument to Little Rock Nine

Trepidation. Defiance. Dignity. Courage. These conflicting emotions that defined the Little Rock Nine in 1957 are evident in a bronze tribute on the north grounds of the State Capitol. As Central High celebrates 50 years of integration, the Secretary of State is promoting the public artwork as one of the must-see destinations for those attending anniversary events this fall.

Funded in part by a grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Secretary of State has created an interpretive guide as a companion piece to the compelling bronze grouping. The brochure provides a historic overview of the 1957 crisis at Central High and details the efforts of artist John Deering to bring his vision into reality. It was created in consultation with Amy Garrett, education specialist at the Central High School National Historic Site.

Visitors can find the guide at the Visitor Center in the first floor rotunda of the Capitol.

## New Training Center Serves Staff and Citizens

New equipment. New laws. New procedures. New software. Changes often require training, and the Secretary of State's office has recently added a state-of-the-art facility to meet that need for staff and public alike.

Various divisions of the office provide training at the new facility in the Victory Building at 1401 West Capitol Avenue.



The training room has a large area that accommodates 40 computer stations, complete with wireless Internet access. The space also offers three smaller rooms, including a mock polling site to train elections workers.

Staff will also use the facility as a petition verification site. A separate room provides secure storage of the petitions, as required by law. A large break room with appliances accommodates all-day training or projects, and wall ports, a ceiling-mounted projector and a DVD player allow presenters to use multimedia resources.

The Secretary of State's office has utilized the facility to train in-house staff on new software and new office procedures, such as the electronic timesheet system used to reduce time and paperwork involved in payroll processing. The Business and Commercial Services division, located in the same building, has also used the training center for several of its notary seminars. See related story on training for election officials, page 5.

## The roses are in full bloom!

The award-winning State Capitol Rose Garden is as beautiful as ever. Located on the north lawn and southwest side of the Capitol grounds, three different gardens display more than 1,500 rose bushes of 50 different varieties.

(The rose photo was taken from the southwest side garden.)







## 2007 Interns for the Office of Secretary of State

Secretary Daniels welcomed 19 students who served internships with the Secretary of State's office this summer. They are working in Elections, Communications and Education, Business and Commercial Services, Grounds and Building Operations divisions. Pictured with Secretary Daniels are: (first row, from left) Ryan Green; Kelsey Newman; Edrick Coggins; William Douthard; Britany Kirkpatrick; (second row) Martha Nicholas; Ashleigh Gibson; Karen Bailey; Rose Ann Dunn; Rachel Hurst; Chase Daneshmandi; (third row) Nick Sansom; Greg Hunt; Blake Mitchell; Travis Cate; Mitchell Dedman; Eugene Brannon. Not pictured are Sonni Rogers and Michael Henry.

## Go Online for New Searchable State Agency Rules

A new feature on the Secretary of State's website offers streamlined access to state agency rules and regulations. The changes have further opened the doors of government to the public, allowing a simpler method for following public hearings and tracking changes in public policy as they are proposed and implemented.

An expanded search engine makes it simple to explore administrative rules online using search fields that include the name of the agency, rule title or number, keywords, file dates and type of rule. New filings are also available in "real time" as they are added to the database.

Previously rules were listed online by filing numbers only, a system that was difficult for members of the general public to navigate. The improvements now allow instant access to

the full text of rules that have been filed electronically with the office since 2001.

With more than 75,000 hits to the rules section of the website each month, this expanded service is a welcome addition for the rule-filing agencies, law firms, publishing houses and general public who reference these documents. More than a year in development and testing, the features were designed in cooperation with administrative rules and information technology staff members and the Information Network of Arkansas.

To access the site, visit [www.sos.arkansas.gov](http://www.sos.arkansas.gov) and click on "Research State Agency Rules and Regs" under the Elections section.

## Young Leaders Take On Capitol for a Day

June 7 and 8 brought hundreds of high school students from around the state to the Arkansas State Capitol to participate in Boys and Girls State 2007. This program, conducted each year by the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary, gives students an inside look at running local, county and state governments.

Jerry Baggies, a senior-to-be at Joe T. Robinson High School in Little Rock, was elected Boys Secretary of State. The Girls Secretary of State was Quersten McDonald, a senior at Central High in Little Rock. As part of their official responsibilities, the delegates fulfilled duties such as appointing deputies and speaking to the entire delegation.

Upon arrival, Baggies and McDonald were sworn in as elected officials and given a tour by Secretary of State Charlie Daniels' staff. Each then directed the elected House of



Representatives and Senate members to their chambers to begin the day.

While attending the conferences, the students got the

chance to hear officials from the Secretary of State's office conduct seminars that covered topics such as the history of the Capitol and the functions of government officials. Approximately 100 delegates applied for voter registration during the two days and many more took their turn using the new iVotronic voting machines.



Students were also divided into individual mock cities and counties while attending. From there they were given the opportunity to represent their towns by running for office. Cities such as Daniels and Dietz were named after Secretary Daniels himself and Outreach Coordinator Judi Dietz, who were honored for their years of assistance to the program.

Sponsorship from the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary, along with the help of the University of Central Arkansas and Harding University, enabled the conference to host 850 girls and 550 boys from different high schools around the state.

## New Requirements Enacted for Nonprofit Companies

Do you own a nonprofit company? If so, we need your current contact information.

The 86th General Assembly approved Act 569 of 2007, requiring nonprofit corporations to file an annual report with the Arkansas Secretary of State's office.

This act will help the Business and Commercial Services division update records. It requires all non-profit corporations to file an annual report which must include the name of the corporation; corporation's jurisdiction; name and address of the corporation's registered agent; address of the corporation's principal office; names of the corporation's principal officers, and names and addresses of the corporation's directors. This annual report will be due by August 1 each year, beginning in 2008.

To help us update addresses on current nonprofit entities, nonprofits should immediately submit contact names and addresses by e-mail to [corporations@sos.arkansas.gov](mailto:corporations@sos.arkansas.gov), by mail to Business and Commercial Services, Arkansas Secretary of State, State Capitol, Little Rock, AR 72201, or by fax to (501) 682-3437.

The first annual report, for the 2007 reporting year, will be due August 1, 2008. The Business and Commercial Service office plans an extensive campaign to notify non-profit corporations of this new requirement closer to August 2008; however, the division needs immediate information regarding a current address and contact person.

Questions may be directed to the above contacts, or by telephone at (501) 682-3409.

## Staff News

### Clements Named Communications & Education Director

Secretary of State staff member Ann Clements was recently promoted to director of the Communications & Education Division. She will oversee the various responsibilities of the department, which include providing information to the public about the Secretary of State, state government and the Capitol.

She previously served as education coordinator for the division, as well as director for the Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial Celebration and State Capitol historian. She has served in the Secretary of State's office since September 1983.



### Elections Director Earns Master Certificate

Jill Belin, director of the Elections Division, recently earned a Master Certificate in applied project management through Villanova's Continuing Studies program. She completed 157 professional development units over two years through online courses. Belin utilizes the tools she learned through the program as project manager of the statewide voter registration system.

## Upcoming Election Dates Reminder

September 18, 2007 School Elections

February 5, 2008 Presidential Preferential Primary Election

May 20, 2008 Preferential Primary Election & Nonpartisan General Election

For more information on upcoming elections, including the new presidential primary, please visit [www.sos.arkansas/elections.html](http://www.sos.arkansas/elections.html).



## Horace Mann Exhibit Recalls Prelude to 1957 Crisis

As a prelude to the 50th anniversary of desegregation at Central High, the State Capitol's summer exhibit recalled an often untold part of the story. The Legacy of Horace Mann: Before '57 and Beyond featured artifacts, testimony and rare images to tell the story of the segregated school whose students included the "Little Rock Nine."

Intended to end overcrowding, Horace Mann was also part of a larger plan to ease pressure on the Little Rock School District to quickly desegregate its facilities. During the 1957 desegregation, Horace Mann and its students were often overlooked by the national media, but in September 1958, like the other Little Rock high schools, Mann was closed for the school year by gubernatorial order. Horace Mann functioned as a high school until 1971, producing almost 3,000 graduates in its 15 senior classes.



Horace Mann school reopened in the fall of 1971 as a junior high school and carries on today as an arts and science magnet middle school. An active national alumni association keeps memories of the high school alive through reunions and other activities.

Over the course of the summer, many alumni of Horace Mann were drawn to the Capitol exhibit and expressed sincere appreciation that their story was being acknowledged, according to Capitol Historian David Ware, who curated the exhibit.

The Capitol will join in the celebration during the week surrounding the Sept. 25 events at Central High with a special display in the rotunda. Images and models will highlight the making of Testament, the monument to the Little Rock Nine on the north grounds of the Capitol. The Capitol is open to visitors 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. during weekdays and 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. on weekends.

## Mock Polling Site Serves as Learning Center for Election Officials

To help Arkansas election officials build on their knowledge of the state's election equipment, the Arkansas Secretary of State Elections Division is offering free training to election officials in its Little Rock training center.

Training is available the third Friday of each month, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., in Suite 165 of the Victory Building, 1401 West Capitol. Certified by the manufacturer to train users, Secretary of State election coordinators provide hands-on instruction for the voting machines.

"I'm excited that we're offering this opportunity to county election officials," Secretary of State Charlie Daniels said. "Whether we're teaching new officials or providing a refresher course to others, this is a wonderful tool for helping each county continue to grow comfortable with their voting systems."

Space is limited, so county election officials are urged to reserve their seats in advance. Most training is unstructured, allowing staff to address the individual needs of the attendees, although formal workshops can be scheduled.

Machines available for training are the Model 650 high-speed central tabulator; Model 100 Precinct Tabulator; and ADA iVotronic with RTAL (Real Time Audit Log), a printed

record of the completed ballot. Unity ERM (Election Report Manager) demonstrations will also be available.

The site also includes a mock polling location in which election officials can practice for a primary and nonpartisan election, as well as a general election. Mock ballots were prepared using historical Arkansas political races, and paper ballots can be marked and calculated for various scenarios.

In addition to providing hands-on training, state election coordinators can answer questions about various procedures and election laws.

To sign up for training, county election officials should contact their Secretary of State election coordinator.



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8-07

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## Keeping History Safe is Ongoing Challenge

Since 1836, the legislature and public demand have all added expectations and responsibilities to the official duties laid out for the Secretary of State in the state's constitution.

The most visible and widely known duty of the office is the stewardship of the State Capitol and its environs. However, before the Capitol or even the State House was built, the Secretary of State maintained and preserved the central documents of state government: the official papers of the Governor and the journals of the Legislative Assembly. That responsibility continues today, made both easier and more challenging with the passage of time.

On one hand, improved environmental controls and better techniques for preserving records ensure that documents will be kept stable and secure. However, the sheer bulk of such records strains the Capitol's storage capacity. The most recent example of this dilemma occurred in May: the Journals of the 2007 General Assembly were due to arrive in the elegant Elections Library on the Capitol's lower level, but no shelf space remained.

A near-term solution was reached with assistance from the Capitol historian. Journals from the 1899 session and earlier were carefully taken across the street to space leased in the ABA Building, once known as the AEGON building. There, the journals are carefully arranged and remain available to the researchers who request them. Approximately 25 linear feet of shelving was freed inside the library, making room for several sessions' worth of journals and other documents that will be in more immediate demand by the public.



For the longer term, the Elections Division and the Capitol historian are exploring ways to balance easy access, preservation and secure storage of the state's permanent materials. In the 1940s, then-Secretary of State C.G. "Crip" Hall requested appropriations for microfilming state records in an attempt to make the best use of storage space. Today, digitization and online access offer improvements in access and delivery of these records but preservation remains both space-intensive and, above all, a part of the public trust borne by the Secretary of State.